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1972/11/04

T ~~O P S E C R E~~ T 042000Z NOV 72 SENSITIVE EYES ONLY VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

FROM: GENERAL HAIG

TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON

CITE: WHS2312

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED GENERAL WEYAND'S OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION AND BELIEVE IT IS ADEQUATE INSOFAR AS STAFFING PATTERN IS CONCERNED. HOWEVER, WE REGARD STAFFING PATTERN AS A RELATIVELY MINOR ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WE WISH WEYAND TO ADDRESS. THE HEART OF THE MATTER, IN OUR JUDGMENT, CONCERNS THE WORKING PROCEDURES WHICH WELL GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION, AS WELL AS A DEFINITION OF THOSE OPERATIONS THEMSELVES. IT IS CRITICAL THAT THESE MATTERS BE CATALYZED IN OUR OWN MINDS BEFORE THE CEASE-FIRE GOES INTO EFFECT.

2. THEREFORE, WE WISH WEYAND, AS A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY, TO DEVELOP HIS THOUGHTS ON HOW THE COMMISSION WILL ORGANIZE, POLICE, AND ENFORCE CEASE-FIRES. IT BECOMES ESSENTIAL TO KNOW HOW HE (AND GENERAL VIEN) INTEND TO DETERMINE THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE BELLIGERENT PARTIES, HOW ACCESS, LOGISTICS, ETC., ARE TO BE ASSURED, AND, IN GENERAL, HOW A STANDSTILL CEASE-FIRE WILL OPERATE.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 6/15/99

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3. SINCE VIEN AND THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY HAVE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS IN 1954, WE FEEL THEY MAY HAVE SOME USEFUL GUIDANCE TO CONTRIBUTE. WE FEEL THEIR INVOLVEMENT IS ALSO NECESSARY BECAUSE THE FOUR PARTY ARRANGEMENTS MUST PARALLEL THE TWO PARTY ARRANGEMENTS. BUT WE THOROUGHLY AGREE THAT FOR THE MOMENT, DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT -- REPEAT -- NOT GO BEYOND VIEN TO ENCOMPASS THE POLITICAL LEVEL.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE CONCEPTUAL FEATURES REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH TWO, WE WANT WEYAND TO ADDRESS THE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF HOW AND WHERE THE FOUR PARTIES MEET TO GET THE AGREEMENT OFF THE GROUND. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD IT PROVE FEASIBLE TO PROPOSE AN INITIAL MEETING IN DALAT, OR PLEIKU, OR TAY NINH? WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN MACV, JGS, AND COSVN IN ORDER TO WORK OUT THESE ARRANGEMENTS? IN SHORT, WE WANT WEYAND TO DO HIS BEST GRAPPLE WITH THE HARD FACTS OF THE PROBLEM AND NOT--REPEAT--NOT CONFINE HIMSELF TO PERSONNEL GRAPHICS.

5. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT U.S. AND GVN TEAMS SHOULD WALK INTO INITIAL MEETING WITH DRV AND PRG COUNTERPARTS CARRYING A DRAFT PROPOSAL WHICH BEST SUITS OUR INTERESTS AND WHICH WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TABLE IMMEDIATELY. WE WISH TO HAVE WEYAND DEVELOP

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SUCH A PROPOSAL, SUBMIT IT TO WASHINGTON FOR OUR REVIEW AND HAVE IT IN HIS BRIEFCASE BEFORE THE CEASE-FIRE IS INITIATED.

6. PLEASE HAVE WELL-STAFFED, COGENT PLAN HERE IN WASHINGTON NO LATER THAN 0800 NOVEMBER 8, WASHINGTON TIME.

WARM REGARDS

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